

ABSTRACT

A mass transfer system offers the simultaneous transfer and time-saving efficiencies of prior art mass transfer techniques, while also offering the flexibility of prior-art free ranging hoist techniques. A mass transfer mechanism and an associated software control mechanism are equipped with the ability to retract a plurality of lifting arms (6), in a manner so as to select which of the processing stages (2) the lifting arms (6) will address for each transfer step, while omitting those steps for which transfer is not yet required.